

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDOC WASHDC

USDA WASHDC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CLASSIFICATION IS L.O.U. VICE CONFIDENTIAL
)

USDA FOR FAS; USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EALR, BU

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL PLAN AND ACHIEVEMENT

1. HEAD OF BKP CENTRAL COMMITTEE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT,
VULKAN SHOPOV, TOLD EMBOFFS JAN 8 THAT BULGARIAN GRAIN
PRODUCTION IN 1975 WAS APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MILLION
TONS. WHEN ASKED IF THIS QUANTITY WOULD PERMIT EXPORTS
TO SOVIET UNION OR EE COUNTRIES, SHOPOV REPLIED BULGARIA
WOULD ONLY BE REPAYING LOANS (APPARENTLY THOSE RECEIVED
TO HELP BULGARIA THROUGH SHORTAGE CAUSED BY 1974 DROUGHT)
BUT THAT NORMALLY BULGARIA DID NOT EXPORT GRAINS TO
THOSE COUNTRIES. INSTEAD, BULGARIA HAD LONG-TERM
AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS ALGERIA
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WHICH IT HAD TO MEET.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, SHOPOV SAID THAT MAJOR REASON FOR FAILURE TO MEET 1975 AGRICULTURAL PLAN (9.3 PERCENT INCREASE PLANNED; APPROXIMATELY 8 PERCENT ACHIEVED) WAS ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, PARTICULARLY HAIL. HE ADDED THAT AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN 1975 RECEIVED 150 MILLION LEVA FROM INSURANCE (SIC) FOR CROP DAMAGE, AND THAT IF THIS SUM WAS INCLUDED IN VALUE OF CROP FOR 1975, PLAN COULD BE CONSIDERED FULFILLED.

3. SHOPOV STATED BULGARIA MET SIXTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN COMMITMENT FOR 17.2 PERCENT INCREASE IN AGRICULTURE. HE DECLINED TO GIVE SEVENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN GOAL, SAYING TO DO SO BEFORE PARTY CONGRESS WOULD BE GIVING AWAY SECRETS. HE CALLED 5 PERCENT INCREASE IN 1976 PLAN "REALISTIC" AND CONFIRMED 1975 PLAN HAD BEEN HIGH BECAUSE ITS BASE HAD BEEN 1974 DROUGHT YEAR.

4. SHOPOV REFERRED EMBOFFS TO FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER FOREIGN TRADE LUKANOV ON SUBJECT OF SILISTRA PROJECT, SAYING HE DID NOT WANT TO MEDDLE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S AREA OR TO GIVE INCORRECT INFORMATION. HE DID STATE THAT IF SILISTRA CONCEPT PROVED SUCCESSFUL, IT WOULD NEXT BE APPLIED TO TOLBUKHIN OKRUG.
HERZ

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